



Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2032  
&  
Biodiversity Development Plan 2022 - 2025

Post-Public Consultation Draft Briefing to CEEEP

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**NORWICH**  
City Council

# Drivers for the new Strategy and Plan

1. Evidence of a global and unsustainable loss of biodiversity;
2. The Council's declaration of a biodiversity emergency in 2019, in response to biodiversity loss;
3. The government's recognition of biodiversity loss by publishing its 25-year Environmental Action Plan in 2018 and the new Environment Act 2021;
4. The need to renew the Council's 2006 Biodiversity Strategy;
5. The need to manage biodiversity improvement opportunities which result from changes to NCSL's grounds maintenance specification.
6. Delivering on the City Vision's Liveable City theme, with respect to protecting and maintaining our green and open spaces to improve biodiversity

# Evolution of the Strategy and Plan

Date	Delivered
Nov 21	Engagement event / Big Biodiversity Conversation on GTN platform Environment Act 2021 is published
to July 22	New draft Strategy produced and agreed
Aug 22	Public consultation exercise for Strategy
Sept/Oct 22	Post-consultation draft and development plan produced and agreed
Nov 22	Strategy and Plan adopted by Cabinet
Nov 22	Development Plan activity begins

# Strategy - policy statement strengthened

Environmental Strategy 2020 – 2025 (existing statement):

***Protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat***

Amended to:

***Create a city where biodiversity can sustainably recover and thrive, halt species decline and increase species abundance by 2030***

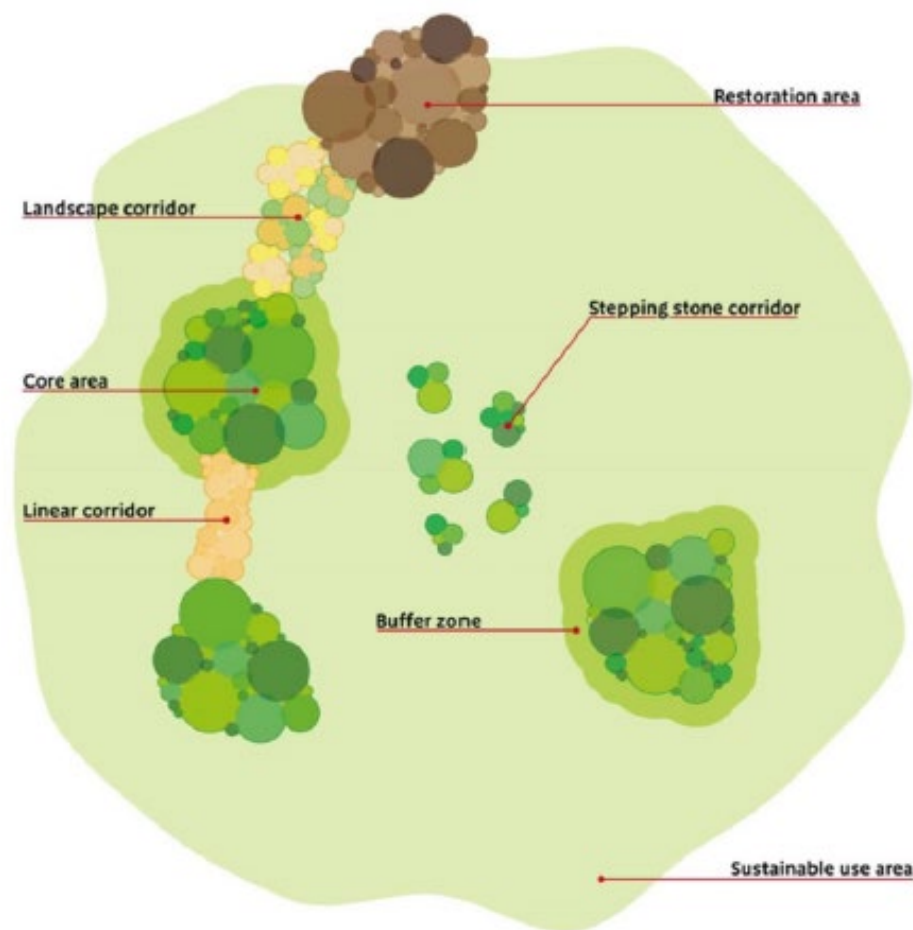
The Strategy is 'citywide', positioning the council as leader/coordinator

# Strategy - main objectives

Develop a Nature Recovery Network (hereafter 'NRN') in the city comprising:

- Existing and new nature *cores* (aka 'hubs') which are areas of highest biodiversity value
- Nature *corridors and steppingstones* which allow movement and interaction
- *Restoration areas* – areas where biodiversity can be restored

The Strategy sets a target for the NRN to be significantly complete by 2030, to bring about a cessation in species decline and increase abundance and diversity



# Strategy - main objectives

Also:

- Reducing heat, drought, flood risk and improving air and water quality, though biodiversity improvement schemes and nature-based solutions;
- Improving wellbeing through improved access to nature;
- Creating educational opportunities (*new in post-consultation draft*);
- Producing food, albeit with the emphasis on biodiversity improvement (*new in post-consultation draft*);
- Enhancing tourism and improving visitor experience;
- Growing the green economy with regards promoting biodiversity and ensuring alignment between this Strategy and strategies and plans for economic growth

# Strategy - flexibility

The Strategy makes provision for flexibility to integrate with:

- Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy, driven by the GNLP
- The National Nature Recovery Network led by County, driven by the Environment Act 2021

# Strategy – resources and funding

NRN will consist of existing and new nature assets, owned and operated by:

- Strategic Partners: e.g. County Council, NWT, neighbouring LAs
- City Council: parks and open spaces, new wild zones, alignment with operations
- Interested Parties (voluntary): businesses, institutions, VSCEs and residents

Funding for new nature assets from:

- Existing council budgets
- Funds leveraged by Strategic Partners
- Grants from government, charitable bodies and CIL
- Private sector Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) funding
- Minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (offsite arrangements)



# Strategy – council funding

Regarding Council budgets, funding will be sourced from:

- Existing and agreed council budgets intelligently managed to deliver net savings where required, and biodiversity improvement
- Spend to save schemes
- Decisions will be made in line with our Corporate Plan priorities and internal planning processes.

# Strategy - management and assurance

The Strategy calls for:

1. A cross directorate Biodiversity Working Group to be convened to implement and coordinate the Biodiversity Development Plan and report on its effectiveness
2. Application of evidence and science-based approaches to improving biodiversity including an ecology baseline measurement and subsequent monitoring to determine effectiveness and inform future action.

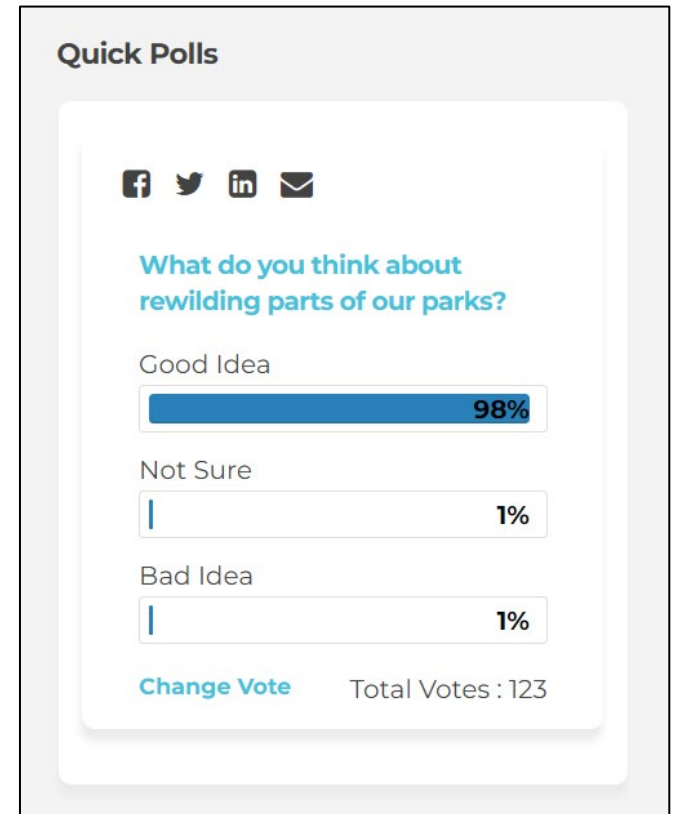
# Consultation - overview

- 1,076 individuals visited the GetTalkingNorwich page and were aware of the Strategy, with 295 downloading the Strategy as a pdf.
- 90 detailed responses on GTN, with a further 10 by email. Plus lots of support on socials.
- 11 key groups or organisations gave detailed feedback, including: Norwich Friends of the Earth; Norfolk Wildlife Trust; Norfolk County Council Natural Environment Team; Flagship Group.
- Overall, responses were very positive and supportive of the proposed draft Strategy



# Consultation – level of support

- **>80% strongly agreed or agreed** that the new proposed policy statement was sufficient:  
*Create a city where biodiversity can sustainably recover and thrive, halt species decline and increase species diversity and abundance by 2030*
- **>80% strongly agreed or agreed** that a Nature Recovery Network is the best way to improve biodiversity
- **>90% Strongly agreed or agreed** that a portion of our parks should be rewilded.
- We also ran a more informal poll on Get Talking Norwich asking about rewilding parks, this was more accessible and shared on socials – **98% expressed support.**



# Consultation – other themes

- The survey yielded lots of useful suggested changes, which have been incorporated into the Strategy
- 45% of responses touched upon wanting the Council to take more of an educator role; encouraging and enabling people to support biodiversity, particularly in their gardens.
- Many responses expressed a desire for the Council to take a leadership role
- Other external organisations are keen to work with us; the Norfolk Wildlife Trust are supportive, and the County Council's Natural Environment Team and the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service have offered advice.
- The Council wishes to thank consultees for their constructive, relevant and useful comment

# Plan - overview

The Biodiversity Development Plan:

- Is the principal means by which the Strategy will be delivered
- Is set out in a separate document entitled *Biodiversity Development Plan 2022-2025, Structure, Process and Programme* (previously known as the *Biodiversity Action Plan*)
- Is based on a rolling 3 year-ahead horizon
- Can flex and evolve according to conditions, opportunities and constraints
- Has been developed by the Biodiversity Working Group which was convened in September (comprising representation from Environmental Strategy Team, Finance, Planning and Regulatory Services, Environmental Services, NCSL, Housing and Community Safety, Communications)

# Plan – thematic structure

The plan is structured according to the following interdependent thematic workstreams. Each workstream has numerous individual tasks.

- Working Group administration and reporting
- Funding and budget management
- Town and county planning
- Council operations
- Species & nature recovery strategies
- Biodiversity measurement
- Engagement with Interested Parties including residents
- Promotion of education opportunities
- Engagement with Strategic Partners to develop the Nature Recovery Network

# Plan – chronological structure

In terms of timescales, the tasks are organised into four broad stages:

1. A communication and engagement stage, where existing and potential new nature assets are identified for the development of the NRN, as well as VCSE management and labour resources;
2. A mapping and coordination stage where existing and potential new nature assets are mapped/prioritised into a cohesive NRN to ensure sufficient coverage to meet the objectives of the Strategy. This stage also coordinates the Local Nature Recovery Strategy work of Norfolk County Council and identifies further opportunities to create, connect and enhance habitat;
3. A programme development stage where action and funding plans are developed for new nature assets, and
4. An implementation period where new and existing nature assets are created, connected and enhanced.

Broadly speaking 2022 and 2023 will see the delivery of enabling tasks, with 2024 being when mobilisation and implementation begin.



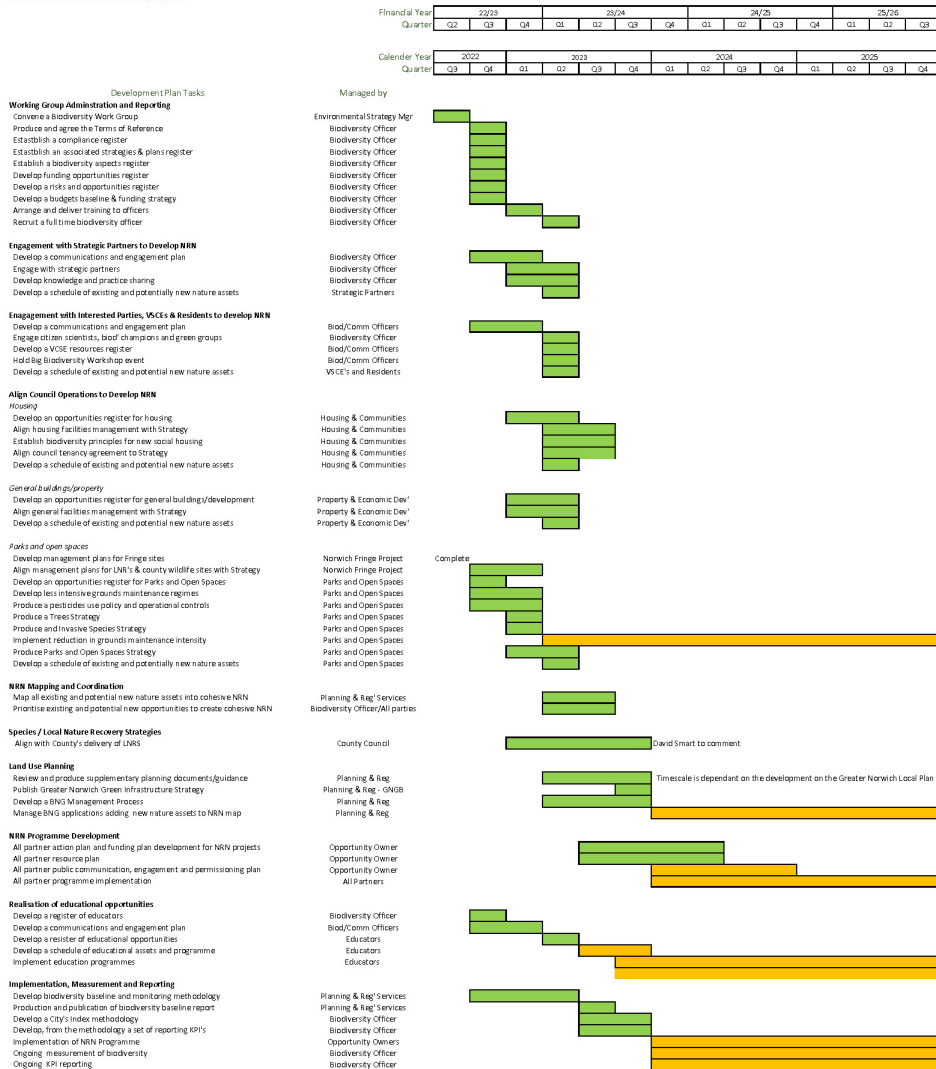
# Plan – Task/project delivery process

In terms of task/project development and delivery:

- Each task has a nominated delivery agent
- Delivery of individual tasks and projects will be premised on action and funding plans developed by the task owner
- Tasks will be implemented by task owners
- Environmental Strategy Team will coordinate and report outcomes

# Norwich City Council Biodiversity Development Plan (BDP)

DRAFT for Discussion Version 0.4 18/10/2022



The complete programme  
2022 – 2025

Also presented as a table in  
the appendix of the Plan.



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